

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/681,087

Examiner

Adam L. Henderson

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 26 September 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas Holtz on 5 December 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electronic camera comprising:

an n:1 (n is a natural number not less than 3) interlace read type imaging element which can read electric charges of a plurality of two-dimensionally arranged photodiodes to the outside through a transfer path;

an unnecessary electric charge flushing portion used to transfer unnecessary electric charges stored in the transfer path at a normal speed through the transfer path;

a signal read portion which reads the electric charges of the photodiodes to the outside of the imaging element after flushing the unnecessary electric charges; and

a conversion portion which converts a signal read by the signal read portion into a video signal,

wherein the unnecessary electric charge flushing portion transfers the unnecessary electric charges stored in the transfer path at a normal speed through the transfer path in a period

after end of exposure of the imaging element before reading the electric charges of the photodiode to the transfer path,

wherein the normal speed corresponds to a speed of reading the electric charges.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An electronic camera comprising:

an n:1 (n is a natural number not less than 3) interlace read type imaging element which can read electric charges of a plurality of two-dimensionally arranged photodiodes to the outside through a transfer path;

an unnecessary electric charge flushing portion used to transfer unnecessary electric charges stored in the transfer path at a normal speed through the transfer path;

a signal read portion which reads the electric charges of the photodiodes to the outside of the imaging element after flushing the unnecessary electric charges; and

a conversion portion which converts a signal read by the signal read portion into a video signal;

wherein the unnecessary electric charge flushing portion has a frame period in which the unnecessary electric charges stored in the transfer path are transferred at a normal speed through the transfer path after end of exposure of the imaging element and before reading the electric charges of the photodiodes to the transfer path,

wherein the normal speed corresponds to a speed of reading the electric charges.

Election/Restrictions

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-8 directed to inventions non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-8 have been cancelled.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam L. Henderson whose telephone number is 571-272-8619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am to 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc-Yen Vu can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ALH
6 December 2007


NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER